

## Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 EA-13 IO-03 NSC-07 NSCE-00

SP-02 L-02 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SAM-01

SAB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-10 PRS-01 SSO-00 DRC-01 /088 W

----- 129798

R 041240Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4103

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5686

LIMDIS

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, IS

SUBJ: SOVIET-ISRAELI RELATIONS

REF: A. MOSCOW;#B. MOSCOW 14748

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. WE HAVE DISCUSSED GROMYKO'S UNGA

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SPEECH WITH DIRECTOR OF MFA EASTERN EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT

(RAVIV), WHO ASSERTED THAT ISRAELIS CONTINUE TO HAVE EVERY INTEREST IN RE-ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS AND DENIED THAT GOI HAD REBUFFED ANY SERIOUS SOVIET MOVES TOWARDS THIS END. COMMENT: GIVEN STRONG ISRAELI INTEREST IN RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS, WE ARE INCLINED TO DISCOUNT REPORTS THAT ISRAELIS HAVE IGNORED OR REJECTED SOVIET INITIATIVES IN THIS DIRECTION. END SUMMARY.

2. RAVIV SAID THAT ISRAELIS HAD BEEN EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN GROMYKO'S UN STATEMENT BUT WERE UNABLE TO SEE ANYTHING IN LANGUAGE USED GOING BEYOND WHAT GROMYKO HAD SAID TO EBAN ON SUBJECT IN DECEMBER 1973 OR BRESHNEV ON JUNE 14, 1974. DESPITE THIS, ISRAELIS RECOGNIZE THAT TIMING OF GROMYKO'S SPEECH AND FORUM IN WHICH IT WAS MADE ARE SIGNIFICANT, PARTICULARLY WHEN PLO ISSUE IS SUCH A HOT ONE. RAVIV SPECULATED THAT SOVIET MOVE MIGHT BE LESS A SIGNAL TO ISRAELIS THAN ONE DESIGNED TO SHOW A DEGREE OF INDEPENDENCE FROM EXTREME ARAB POSITIONS AND OF EVEN-HANDEDNESS IN THEIR APPROACH WHICH MIGHT BETTER QUALIFY THEM FOR A GENEVA ROLE. IT COULD ALSO BE DESIGNED, RAVIV THOUGHT, TO TELL PLO THAT THERE WAS A LINE BEYOND WHICH SOVIETS WOULD NOT GO, I.E. ON ISSUE OF ISRAELI "EXISTENCE".

3. IF ISRAELIS SEE INADEQUATE GROUNDS FOR GETTING THEIR HOPES UP ABOUT A CHANGE OF SOVIET POSITION ON RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS, SAID RAVIV, GOI WOULD NEVERTHELESS WARMLY WELCOME SUCH AN EVOLUTION. THEY ARE AWARE THAT IT WOULD SERVE AS A STRONG REMINDER TO THIRD WORLD GOVERNMENTS THAT ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXISTENCE IS NOT TO BE CHALLENGED AND AS A USEFUL SUPPORT TO HER BARGAINING STRENGTH IN ANY FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS. IF ISRAELIS HAVE NOT OPENLY PURSUED SOVIETS ON SUBJECT, THIS WAS NOT BECAUSE OF LACK OF INTEREST BUT RATHER BECAUSE ISRAELI LEADERSHIP HAVE FELT THEIR OWN POSITION WOULD BE WEAKENED BY A REJECTION OF AN ISRAELI APPROACH. RAVIV SAID SPECIFICALLY THAT MFA HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF AN ISRAELI REBUFF TO ANY SERIOUS MOVES OF THIS KIND (BY SERIOUS, HE SAID HE MEANT "SOMETHING BEYOND HAVING VICTOR LOUIS MENTION TO AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST, SOMEWHERE, THAT SOVIETS WERE INTERESTED"). RAVIV MADE FINAL POINT THAT IF SOVIETS WERE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO COMMUNICATE WITH ISRAELIS THERE WERE MANY FORA WHERE THIS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED AS DIRECTLY OR DISCREETLY AS SOVIETS WISHED.

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4. COMMENT: GROMYKO'S REMARKS HAVE REKINDLED GOI AND PUBLIC INTEREST IN POSSIBLE RENEWED TIES WITH USSR, SUBJECT DORMANT SINCE EARLY THIS YEAR. RAVIV'S COMMENTS REFLECT WHAT APPEARS TO BE INFORMAL CONSENSUS HERE RE HOW TO HANDLE THIS SUBJECT--I.E. CAUTIOUS RECEPTIVITY.

5. IT IS POSSIBLE OF COURSE THAT ISRAELI SENSITIVITIES AND CONCERN

ABOUT BEING STUNG BY THE SOVIETS MAY HAVE CAUSED THEM TO FAIL TO PURSUE SOME PREVIOUS SOVIET SIGNAL OF INTEREST IN RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE ISRAELIS ARE FULLY AWARE OF ADVANTAGES TO THEIR OWN POSITION AND WOULD WELCOME AND ENCOURAGE SOVIET MOVES IN THIS DIRECTION. ISRAELIS RECOGNIZE THAT SOVIETS HAVE LEFT THEMSELVES ROOM FOR MANEUVER IN THIS RESPECT BY NOT TAKING OVER IN THEIR ENTIRETY POL AND OTHER MORE EXTREME ARAB POSITIONS RE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL RIGHTS, ETC. WE THINK THEY APPRECIATE THAT GROMYKO'S STATEMENT COULD BE A SIGNAL TO ISRAEL, EVEN IF THEY ARE NOT YET CONVINCED THAT IT IS.  
KEATING

NOTE BY OC/T: REFTEL A #AS RECEIVED

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, REFUGEES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
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